

CERTIFICATE

WE certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (62)6 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 652.

N. D. RILEY
Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

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Assistant Secretary

London

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COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES
BOA LINNAEUS, 1758 (REPTILIA). Z.N.(S.) 1183

(see volume 19, pages 205-207)

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After having read Dr. H. M. Smith's application in which he proposes several changes concerning the genera *Boa* and *Constrictor*, I must state that I am against these proposals, for the following reasons:

1. These conclusions are based on no well-defined facts, but merely on interpretations of some facts subject to different possibilities!

2. Forcart's (1951) publication provided a simple and the only possible interpretation in accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, showing clearly that Fitzinger (1843, p. 24) was the first to designate explicitly *Boa constrictor* Linnaeus as type of *Boa* Linnaeus; Forcart's (1951, p. 138) designation of *C. formosissimus* as type of *Constrictor* Laurenti simplifies again the situation, leaving no nomenclatural difficulties in recognizing the two well-known South American genera:

(a) *Boa* Linnaeus, 1758 (type: *B. constrictor* designated by Fitzinger, 1843) which includes 7 subspecies of the only species, *B. constrictor*;

(b) *Corallus* Daudin, 1803 (type: *C. obtusirostris* Daudin, by monotypy (= *Boa hortulana* Linnaeus) which includes *C. hortulanus*, *C. caninus* and *C. annulatus*).

3. This disposal of Forcart's has been accepted and used by a great majority of herpetologists working on South American snakes (Peters, 1960; Roze, 1961, etc.).

Against this simple situation, Smith proposes to make several changes to adjust it to his interpretation.